

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH DELEGATION TO US

REF: (A) 76 ANKARA 9666, (B) 76 STATE 21054

1. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE RE STATUS OF PROPOSED TURKISH DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON DISCUSSED IN REFTELS. UPON REFTEL B RECEIPT, I PASSED MESSAGE TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND TO INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BE MAKING THE TRIP. AS RESULT, SCHEDULING HAS BEEN SET BACK AND KEY BUSINESS GROUP (LED BY FEYYAZ BERKER (AND MADE UP OF NECATI AKCAGLILAR, JAK KAMHI, RAHMI KOC, AND PERHAPS OTHERS OR ORIGINAL TEAM BERKER LED TO WASHINGTON SOME TIME AGO) NOW EXPECTS TO BE IN WASHINGTON AREA LATTER HALF OF FEBRUARY. THEY MAY NOT REPEAT NOT ALL COME AND DEPART AT SAME TIME, BUT THEY WILL OVERLAP IN THE U.S. DURING SAME TIME FRAME. BERKER GROUP WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO SEE FEWER PEOPLE THAN ON EARLIER VISIT AND ARE HOPING TO CONCENTRATE ON ONLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES. THEY INTEND TO SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME ON THE HILL BUT HAVE ALSO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AND ON SECY VANCE.
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I HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THESE LATTER MEETINGS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. I HAVE, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THE OBVIOUS PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IN THAT PARTICULAR PERIOD. ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OF BERKER GROUP MAY GO TO THE U.S. BEFORE THE LAST HALF OF FEBRUARY ON VISITS THAT HAVE BEEN ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR PERSONAL AND/OR BUSINESS REASONS; IN FACT RAHMI KOC HAS ALREADY DONE THIS. THE

GROUP REGARDS THESE INDIVIDUAL EARLIER VISITS, HOWEVER, AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO "SCOUT OUT THE GROUND" FOR THE MORE FORMAL MISSION WHICH THEY WILL ALL UNDERTAKE IN LATE FEBRUARY.

2. THE TIMING OF TWO OTHER HIGH LEVEL VISITORS, COMING ON THE SAME TYPE OF MISSION, IS LESS CLEAR. THESE ARE PROF. DR. OSMAN OKYAR AND DR. IHSAN DOGRAMACI. PROF. OKYAR IS A FORMER RECTOR OF ATATURK UNIVERSITY IN ERZURUM AND A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT ANKARA UNIVERSITY. HE IS ALSO THE SON OF ATATURK'S CLOSE FRIEND WHO, AT ATATURK'S REQUEST FORMED THE FIRST OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY HERE. ATATURK SUBSEQUENTLY TERMINATED THIS EXPERIMENT WHEN THE OPPOSITION BECAME SOMEWHAT MORE VIGOROUS THAN ANTICIPATED. DR. IHSAN DOGRAMACI IS, BY ANY DEFINITION, ONE OF TURKEY'S MOST WELL KNOWN AND OUTSTANDING CITIZENS. HE IS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES AS WELL. HE IS THE FOUNDER AND PERMANENT HONORARY RECTOR OF HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY AND, ALTHOUGH NO LONGER AN ACTIVE DUTY RECTOR, HE REMAINS CHAIRMAN OF TURKISH BOARD OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS. UNLIKE THE BERKER GROUP, OKYAR AND DOGRAMACI HAVE INDICATED TO ME THEY ARE PLANNING TO GO TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE BY THE END OF JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. WHILE THIS FITS THE TIME FRAME OF REFTEL B, I HAVE URGED THAT THEY GO SOMEWHAT LATER. AT THE MOMENT THEIR SPECIFIC TIMING PLANS ARE UNCERTAIN. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THEY WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMING TOGETHER.

3. AT DR. DOGRAMACI'S URGING, I HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FOR HIM TO A NUMBER OF MY CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS. THESE LETTERS TELL SOMETHING OF DOGRAMACI'S BACKGROUND AND INDICATE HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESENT COURSE OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND HIS DESIRE TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT THIS. ALSO AT DR. DOGRAMACI'S REQUEST I HAVE WRITTEN TO FORMER AMBASSADOR GEORGE MCGHEE AND FORMER AID DIRECTOR JAMES GRANT, BOTH OF WHOM ARE WELL MEMBERED HERE BECAUSE OF THEIR EARLIER TOURS OF DUTY IN ANKARA. COPIES OF THESE LETTERS ARE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SE. MY CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION HAVE GONE TO SENATORS SPARKMAN, CHURCH, CASE, JAVITS, PERCY, ZABLOCKI, HAMILTON, BINGHAM, SOLARZ, BROOMFIELD, FINDLEY AND BUCHANAN. COPIES ARE ALSO BEING SENT TO EUR/SE AND I ASK THAT THESE BE SHOWN TO "H" AS WELL.

4. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS MADE THE POINT TO ME THAT

IT DOES NOT REFER TO THIS GROUP OF TRAVELERS TO WASHINGTON AS AN "OFFICIAL DELEGATION." RATHER THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED, PRIVATE, TURKISH CITIZENS GOING TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE GOING AT STRONG URGING AND SUPPORT OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. MOREOVER, DOGRAMACI HAD TOLD ME THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS OFFERED TO PAY ALL HIS EXPENSES, AND I SUSPECT THIS IS BEING DONE IN THE CASE OF SOME OF THE OTHERS. DOGRAMACI, WHO IS WEALTHY, HAS TOLD ME THAT HE HAS DECLINED THIS OFFER. HE HAS ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE IS WILLING TO COME BACK ON SEVERAL RETURN TRIPS TO WASHINGTON IF THE NEED FOR THIS SEEMS TO BE INDICATED.

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